MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Sir, before proceeding to the next business on the agenda I wish to make a statement for the consideration of the Chair. Standing Order 9 *i. e.* clause 27 of the Sri Mulam Assembly Manual, reads thus:—

"The first hour of every meeting shall be available for asking and answering of questions.

Sir, for this Session, 544 questions appear to have been admitted by the President and included in the list of questions to be answered. Sir, a special characteristic of this Session is that the questions and answers included in the agenda fixed for each day do not cover at least half an hour. I believe that the answering of questions on matters of public importance will be more effective and useful for bringing to light and consequently to the notice of the Government the illegalities and irregularities committed by different branches of Government. Under these circumstances, I wish to know from the Chair whether it is proper and just to table only a few questions for each day.

PRESIDENT: Well, the Chair certainly will agree with the complaint that has been urged by the Honourable member. It is true that the first hour must always be available for answering questions and I am also personally aware of the fact that a large number of questions have already been admitted by the President. Why it is that few questions were being allowed for each day, I am not able to say off-hand. But, however, in as much as a complaint has been now made, I will investigate into the matter and find out why there has been delay; and if the delay is avoidable, I certainly shall see that more questions are tabled for each day.

The House will now resume discussion on demands for grants. Demand II is now under discussion.

VOTING OF DEMAND FOR GRANTS—(*contd.*)

DEMAND II—ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONE,

Motion No. 83—(*contd.*)

MR. P. C. KURIYAN (*Kottayam I*): Sir, I support the motion, and in doing so, I wish to make a few remarks on the suggestion thrown out by my friend Mr. Thanu Pillai. Mr. Thanu Pillai complains that the surplus on account of the Trivandrum Electric Supply Fund was carried over to the Quilon Electric Supply, and that thereby the Trivandrum consumers stand to suffer. This is a very important question as it relates to dealings between Government and Municipalities. Sir, the funds for the Trivandrum Electric Supply were not raised from the Trivandrum Municipality. It was financed by Government in the first instance. But in regard to other Municipalities, we do not get this concession from the Government. Any amount spent in the Trivandrum City is spent for the whole State because Trivandrum is the Capital. Trivandrum being the metropolis we take it that sums spent in it are spent for the whole of Travancore. We have already spent a crore of rupees and I know whether another crore will also be spent by us for the improvement of the City because a good portion of the City is a disgrace to any civilised country. The portion between Cantonment and Thycaud,

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